

PATENT APPLICATION

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[0091] What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented framework for a composite application, the framework comprising:

an object access layer to exchange data with enterprise base systems and to present the data to a composite application through a uniform interface;

a business object modeling layer comprising a business object modeler to provide a user interface (UI) for constructing a business object; and

a service layer to enable services to the composite application, the service layer comprising a collaboration services module to enable collaboration services to the composite application, the business object modeling layer linking at least one of the collaboration services associated with the business object to the business object.

2. The computer-implemented framework of claim 1 wherein the collaboration services module enables at least one generic collaboration service.

3. The computer-implemented framework of claim 2 wherein the object modeling layer comprises a module to derive at least one object specific service from the at least one generic collaboration service.

4. The computer-implemented framework of claim 3 further comprising a process modeler including a context modeler for modeling a context, wherein the object modeling layer comprises a module arranged to derive an object specific service from the at least one generic collaboration service on the basis of the modeled context.

5. The computer-implemented framework according of claim 4 wherein each business object is a specific instance of an object class, and wherein the object modeling layer comprises a module to extend the object class by adding a generic collaboration service and to derive an object class specific service from the at least one generic collaboration service.

6. The computer-implemented framework of claim 5 wherein the object modeling layer specializes the at least one generic collaboration service in accordance with the object class.

7. The computer-implemented framework of claim 1 wherein the object modeling layer is included in a design time component.

8. The computer-implemented framework of claim 1 further comprising a user interface (UI) layer to enable UI patterns that facilitate information exchange between the composite application and a user.

9. A computer-implemented method of implementing a composite application in a framework, the method comprising:

accessing an object to exchange data with enterprise base systems and to present the data to a composite application through a uniform interface;

modeling a business object to enable a user interface (UI) for constructing a business object; and

enabling services to the composite application including providing collaboration services to the composite application, the modeling comprises directly linking at least one of the collaboration services associated with the business object to the business object.

10. The computer-implemented method of claim 9 wherein providing the collaboration services comprises enabling at least one generic collaboration service.

11. The computer-implemented method of claim 10 wherein modeling comprises deriving at least one object specific service from the at least one generic collaboration service.

12. The computer-implemented method of claim 11 further comprising modeling a process including a context, the modeling comprising deriving an object specific service from the at least one generic collaboration service on the basis of the modeled context.

13. The computer-implemented method of claim 12 wherein each business object is a specific instance of an object class, and wherein modeling comprises extending the object class by adding a generic collaboration service and deriving an object class specific service from the at least one generic collaboration service.
14. The computer-implemented method of claim 13, wherein modeling comprises specializing the at least one generic collaboration service in accordance with the object class.
15. The computer-implemented method of claim 14 wherein the modeling is carried out by a design time component.
16. The computer-implemented method of claim 15 further comprising enabling a UI layer to provide UI patterns that facilitate information exchange between the composite application and a user.